

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LISBON 00715 061552Z

47

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 SAJ-01 SAM-01 NIC-01 /076 W

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R 061436Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1655

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

USMISSION NATO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LISBON 715

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PO

SUBJ: RESTRICTIONS ON VOTE OF PORTUGUESE EMIGRANTS

REF: BRUSSELS 987 (NOTAL)

1. PORTUGUESE PRESS HAS REPORTED THAT PORTUGUESE EMIGRANTS
RESIDENT IN WEST GERMANY AND SWITZERLAND WILL BE UNABLE TO VOTE
IN LOCAL PORTUGUESE CONSULATES IN APRIL CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY
ELECTIONS. GERMAN AND SWISS AUTHORITIES HAVE TOLD PORTUGUESE
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PAGE 02 LISBON 00715 061552Z

AUTHORITIES THAT LAW PROHIBITS FOREIGNERS FROM VOTING AT THEIR
CONSULATES. UNDER PORTUGUESE ELECTORAL LAW ABSENTEE BALLOTING

BY MAIL IS PROHIBITED.

2. THE NON-COMMUNIST PARTIES IN PORTUGAL ARE DISMAYED TO FIND THAT MANY EMIGRANTS IN EUROPE MAY BE EFFECTIVELY DISFRANCHISED. SOCIALISTS AND POPULAR DEMOCRATS HOPE TO RECEIVE BULK OF EUROPEAN EMIGRANT VOTE. COMMUNIST PARTY APPARENTLY DOES NOT EXPECT TO MAKE A STRONG SHOWING AMONG EMIGRANT COMMUNITY, JUDGING BY THEIR LACK OF ENTHUSIASM FOR THAT PART OF RECENT ELECTORAL LAW GIVING EMIGRANTS RIGHT TO VOTE.

3. ACTION REQUESTED: EMBASSY LISBON WOULD APPRECIATE ANY INFORMATION ADDRESSEES, IN THOSE COUNTRIES WITH SIGNIFICANT NUMBER OF EMIGRANTS, CAN OBTAIN ON VOTING RESTRICTIONS AFFECTING ABSENTEE BALLOTING BY PORTUGUESE. WE WOULD ALSO LIKE TO KNOW IF DEPARTMENT AWARE OF ANY IMPEDIMENTS TO ABSENTEE VOTING BY EMIGRANTS IN US (OTHER THAN CITIZENSHIP QUESTION).

4. IF DEPARTMENT CONCURS, WE RECOMMEND ADDRESSEE POSTS USE THE OPPORTUNITY PRESENTED, IN GATHERING THIS INFORMATION, TO URGE HOST GOVERNMENTS TO FACILITATE TO EXTENT POSSIBLE ABSENTEE BALLOTING BY PORTUGUESE EMIGRANTS.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: EMIGRANTS, NATIONAL ELECTIONS, SUFFRAGE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 06 FEB 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975LISBON00715
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750044-0256
From: LISBON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750267/aaaacibd.tel
Line Count: 83
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 BRUSSELS 987
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04 APR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <04 APR 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <07 APR 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: RESTRICTIONS ON VOTE OF PORTUGUESE EMIGRANTS
TAGS: PINT, PO
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006